
FAQs

Frequently Asked Questions about recent Board for Barbers and Cosmetology fee increases

WHY DID THE BOARD INCREASE FEES?

- The Board for Barbers and Cosmetology recently increased licensing and renewal fees as required by state law.
- The “Callahan Act” (§ 54.1-113 of the *Code of Virginia*), directs regulatory agencies to adjust fees to ensure revenues are sufficient to cover expenses.
- This increase is the only fee change since July 2002, when the Board’s regulatory authority covered barbers, cosmetologists, and nail technicians (and the schools and shops/salons associated with those professions).
- In the nine years since the last fee change, the General Assembly expanded the Board’s responsibilities to include regulatory programs for wax technicians, tattooists and body piercers, hair braiders, and estheticians. Today, the Board regulates more than 74,000 individuals and businesses in Virginia.
- During the nine years when fees remained unchanged, the Board incurred increased costs for enforcement activities, information systems development, expenses associated with a mandatory office relocation and higher rent, and application processing and customer support services.

WHY DOES THE MONEY NEED TO COME FROM MY LICENSE FEES?

- As a non-general fund agency, DPOR is funded only through revenue collected through fees paid by licensees, not by any tax revenues.
- Fees are the sole source of revenue from which the Board’s operations are funded. The previous fees no longer provided adequate revenue to cover the cost of Board operations.

ARE THERE ANY OTHER ALTERNATIVES TO INCREASING FEES?

- Fee increases are a last resort, and DPOR considered all possible alternatives to address the Board’s revenue gap, including reduced random inspections of licensed facilities. In recent fiscal years, the agency participated in discretionary spending freezes.
- Service reductions were not considered a viable alternative because they would delay the issuance of licenses and the investigation of consumer complaints, creating a barrier for citizens’ ability to work while putting the public at risk.

HOW DID THIS HAPPEN WITHOUT MY KNOWLEDGE?

- The fee increases followed the process for all regulatory actions (governed by the Administrative Process Act (§ 2.2-4000 et seq. of the *Code of Virginia*).
- The APA's three-stage process provides decision-makers, businesses, and the public ample opportunity to study the proposed change and provide comments. The Board considered all public comments, and the Governor approved the change, because the fee increase is the only way for the Board to finance its operations and comply with state law.
- Interested parties may follow the Board's activities and proposed regulatory changes using the Virginia Regulatory Town Hall (<http://www.townhall.virginia.gov>). Registered users may receive electronic mail notification about Board meetings and regulatory activity.

Board for Barbers and Cosmetology Fees Effective September 1, 2011

**includes licenses with September 2011 expiration dates (for which renewals are mailed in August 2011)*

FEE TYPE	AMOUNT DUE
Individuals:	
Application	\$140
License by Endorsement	\$140
Renewal	\$140
Reinstatement	\$280* <i>* \$140 renewal fee + \$140 reinstatement fee</i>
Instructors:	
Application	\$150
License by Endorsement	\$150
Renewal	\$290* <i>*\$140 Individual renewal fee + \$150 Instructor renewal fee</i>
Reinstatement	\$580* <i>*\$280 Individual reinstatement fee + \$300 Instructor reinstatement fee</i>
Facilities:	
Application	\$225
Renewal	\$225
Reinstatement	\$450* <i>*\$225 renewal fee + \$225 reinstatement fee</i>
Schools:	
Application	\$255
Add Program	\$125
Renewal	\$255
Reinstatement	\$510* <i>*\$255 renewal fee + \$255 reinstatement fee</i>